

Disclaimer

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Goals

- For educators to learn more about the use of visual supports so that they may engage students in learning as well as participation in purposeful and meaningful school activities.
- To spark ideas and new ways to use visual supports with students.
- For educators to collaborate and explore new or different ways to use visual supports.



Visual Support Definition

- Visual supports are any tool presented visually that supports an individual as he or she moves through the day. Visual supports might include, but are not limited to pictures, written words, objects within the environment, arrangement of the environment or visual boundaries, schedules, maps, labels, organization systems, timelines, graphic organizers, scripts and social stories. They are used across settings to support individuals with ASD. (National Research Council, 2001).
- Visual supports meet the evidence-based practice criteria within the early childhood, elementary and middle school age groups (Hume,K.2008).

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How are Visual Supports Used?

- Social Skills
- Maintain Attention
- Sequence and Organize the Environment or Task
- Communication
- Prepare for Transitions
- Prepare for Activity
- Define Boundaries
- Manage Behavioral Problems
- Reward or Reinforce Positive Behavior
- Provide Prompts to Generate Ideas
- Facilitate Learning
- Follow Directions

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Who are Visual Supports Used With?

Students with:

- Autism (most researched)
- Language Challenges
- Attention Challenges
- Cognitive Challenges
- Executive Function Challenges
- Non readers or Early Readers
- Almost Everyone Uses Visual Supports

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Who are Visual Supports Use With?

Students with

- Challenges Socializing
- Challenges with Generating Ideas
- Students with Behavioral Challenges
- Impulsive Students
- Students with Memory Challenges

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Types of Visual Supports

Pictures, Photographs, and/or Objects

Visual Schedules

- Accommodates need for Predictability.
- Decreases Anxiety about Unknown
- Provides Motivation
- Aid with Memory and Sequencing
- Structures Change/transitions



Image retrieved from:
misgenissclass.wikispaces.com/daily+schedule

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Types of Visual Supports

Task Cards

- Helps students learn and remember routines
- Communicate ideas
- Lean Social Skills



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Types of Visual Supports

- Lists
- Solid Representation of Information
- Aid with Sequencing
- Aid with Memory
- Aid with Keeping Student on Task



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Type of Visual Supports

Graphic Organizers

- Organize Content
- Aid in Understanding Concepts

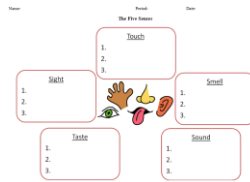


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Types of Visual Supports

Reminder Cards

- Enhance Independence
- Minimize Disruptive Behavior
- Improve Communication



Image retrieved from: childrenwithlearningdifferences.wikispaces.com/visual+schedules

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Types of Visual Supports

Travel Card

- Increases Productive Behavior Across Multiple Environments
- Facilitates Teacher Collaboration
- Improves School-Home Communication



Image retrieved from: beathinkids.com/2011/01

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Types of Visual Supports

Home Base Card

- Designates a quiet & safe place where students can go to regain control and regulate behavior.



Image retrieved from: www.crookedbrains.net/2010/10/creative-bean-bag-designs.html

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Facilitating Play Skills with Visual Supports

- Build on student's interests
- What toys, friends, activities, objects does student interact with currently?
- What does student need to do in order to make play more meaningful, purposeful, and facilitate interaction with others?
- What are student's strengths and challenges?

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Facilitating Play Skills

- What are student's strengths?
- Can the use of visual supports address challenges and facilitate strengths?
- Can this be easily implemented in classroom with teachers and peers?

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Facilitating Play in Preschool Video

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Facilitating Handwriting with Visual Supports

- What are students challenges?
- What are students strengths?
- What can student do?
- What does student need to do?
- How can task be structured so that student experiences success?

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Facilitating Handwriting using Visual Supports Video

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Visual Supports for Handwriting

- Adaptive paper
- Visual targets
- Pictures
- Spacers
- Tape
- Highlighting Lines
- Modeling
- Tablet Apps (auditory and visual supports)

Injini Write My Name
Writing Wizard

Ready to Print
Wet Dry Try -HWWT

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Handwriting Curriculum with Visual Supports

- Handwriting without Tears
(multi-sensory, adaptive paper)
- Letter Land Reading and Writing
(characters, verbal prompts)
- Foundations – Wilson Language Training
(adaptive paper - picture prompts)

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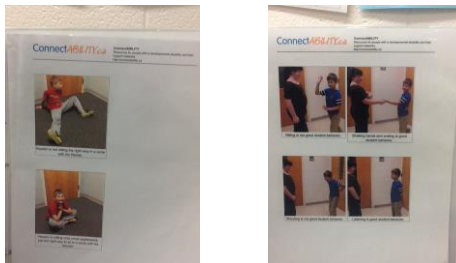
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Visual Supports for Social Skills and Appropriate Behavior

- What does student need to do? (target behavior)
- Why is behavior occurring?
- What are students challenges?
- What are student's strengths?
- Who can help? (assistants, peers, parents)



Social Stories



Images from:
D:\Schoolroom\Schoolroom\resources\social stories



Resources for Social Stories & Visual Supports

- Connectability.Ca-
Visuals Engine- Free
(choice boards, circle time, labels, rules, schedules, first/then, I want board, personal stories, token economy)
- Picto-selector – Free
(over 28,000 images translated to English, German, Dutch, Spanish, and Italian)
- MagnusCards-Free
(free app that combines social stories with elements of game design)



Visual Supports

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Group Sharing

- Identify issue with student in classroom or select from examples.
- What do you want student to do- target behavior.
- Possible explanations for behavior?
- What are student's challenges you need to consider?
- What are students strengths, preferences, motivators or affinities?
- Identify possible visual supports that may facilitate target behavior?
- How would you implement the use of the visual support(s)?

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Appropriate Visual Supports



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